

## Message Text

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45

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 NIC-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25

RSR-01 /175 W

----- 013354

R 051730Z SEP 73

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 130

INFO AMEMBASSS AMMAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L JEC PARIS 23451

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, BA, JO, JU

SUBJ: ISSUE OF PRG AT ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

REF: (A) USDEL JEC PARIS 22038; (B) SAIGON 14587;  
(C) MANAMA 0511; (D) KUWAI 3105; (E) AMMAN 4662

1. SUMMARY: AFTER VISITING BAHRAIN, KUWAIT AND JORDAN  
GVN ENVOY PHONG CONCLUDED IROSPECS FOR DEVELOPING  
COMMERICAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS IWHT THESE AND OTHER  
ARAB COUNTRIES WERE GOOD, ALTHOUGH POLITICAL RELATIONS  
WERE FROZEN BECAUSE OF GVN RELATIONS WIH ISRAEL. HE  
DID NOT EXPECT THEM TO MAKE ANY OPEN MOVE TO OPPOSE  
SEATNG OF PRG AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. NGUYEN XUAN PHONG, DEPUTY CHIEF OF GVNDEL TO PARIS  
BILATERALS WIH PRG, GAVE DELOFFS RUNDOWN SEPTEMBER 4 ON HIS  
RECENT TRIP TO BAHRAIN, KUWAIT AND JORDAN.

3. PHONG BELEIVED GVN ANNOUNCEMEN OF A FEW MONTHS AGO  
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THAT IT WAS OPENING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL,  
PLUS GVN IDENTIFICATION WITH US, WHOM ARABS CONSIDER

ISRAEL'S MAIN SUPPORTER, MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR EVEN MODERATE ARAB STATES TO HAVE FRIENDLY POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH GVN. FURTHERMORE, MODERATE ARAB COUNTRIES WERE CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING TO STAVE OFF EFFORTS BY EXTREMISTS TO USE OIL AS A WEAPON AGAINST US, AND OBVIOUSLY WERE IN NO POSITION TO USE UP POLITICAL CAPITAL ON SUCH AS MARGINAL ISSUE FOR THEM AS ADMISSION OF PRG AS FULL MEMBER AT ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (NAC). CONSEQUENTLY, ALTHOUGH PHONG STATED GVN VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION IN EACH COUNTRY AND HANDED OVER MEMORANDUM CONTAINED REFTEL B, HE STRESSED GVN DESIRE TO DEVELOP BILATERAL COOPERATION, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE IN THE COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL FIELDS, HE ALSO DELIVERED PERSONAL LETTERS FROM PRESIDENT THIEU. PHONG FELT MOST ARAB COUNTRIES WERE FUNDAMENTALLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, AS EVIDENCED BY PRESS TREATMENT OF MATTERS INVOLVING COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, AND THAT CHANCES WERE GOOD FOR DEVELOPING COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS. (PHONG SAID GVN CURRENTLY HAS NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BAHRAIN AND KUWAIT. GVN EMBASSY IN ANKARA IS ACCREDITED TO JORDAN BUT ANKARA POST IS VACANT).

4. PHONG TOLD US HIS VIEW THAT ADMISSION OF PRG TO NAC WAS NOT IMPORTANT IN ITSELF AND WOULD BE FORGOTTEN IN TWO WEEKS. HOWEVER, PRG WOULD ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT ADMISSION TO NAC TO DEVELOP BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS, AND TO COUNTER THIS GVN NEEDED TO MAKE A CONTINUING EFFORT OF ITS OWN.

5. PHONG MADE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON COUNTRIES VISITED:

(A) BAHRAIN. PHONG'S REMARKS WERE ALONG LINES OF REFTEL C. HE APPRECIATED TALK WITH CHARGE. PHONG WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY FRIENDLINESS OF BAHRAINI OFFICIALS INCLUDING RULER.

(B) KUWAIT. REFTEL D ON ARRIVAL PHONG WAS TOLD BY MFA PROTOCOL OFFICER THAT RULER AND PM WOULD BE OUT OF COUNTRY FIRST DAY OF HIS VISIT, AND THAT FOLLOWING TWO  
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DAYS WERE RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS WHEN NO BUSINESS WAS DONE. PHONG ASKED TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS AND HAD LONG TALK WITH DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WHOM PHONG FOUND TO BE ANTI-AMERICAN AND MORE EXTREME THAN HIS MODERATE GOVERNMENT.

(C) JORDAN. AS NOTED REFTEL E, PHONG WAS GIVEN RED CARPET TREATMENT INCLUDING PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE AND EXHAUSTING SERIES OF VISITS TO ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL

INSTITUTIONS. PHONG SAID PM RIFAI WAS WILLING TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY DETAILED DISCUSSION OF IMPROVEMENT OF COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS. VISIT WAS CAPPED BY ONE-HOUR INTERVIEW WITH KING WHILE JORDANIAN DELEGATION TO NAC WAITED OUTSIDE TO RECEIVE FUNAL INSTRUCTIONS. PHONG SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD DECISION TO GIVE HIM WARM WELCOME HAD BEEN MADE BY CABINET, AND PERHAPS BY KING HIMSELF. PHONG WOULD NOT VENTURE OPINION TO DELOFFS AS TO MOTIVATION BEHIND GOJ DECISION, BUT HINTED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS PART OF SOME PLAN OF THE "SUBTLE AND INTELLIGENT" KING HUSSEIN.  
MOSSLER

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